Child Labour in Hazardous Jobs

2083. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest figures about the population of child labour in the country and how many of them are working in hazardous jobs, State-wise;

(b) the number of children who are below 10 years of age; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to redefine the term "hazrardous jobs" to effectively implement the Prime Minister's Plan of Action to eliminate child labour in hazardous jobs?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Authentic figures on child labour are generated during decennial census. According to the 1981 census, the number of working children was 13.6 million. In the 43rd round of National Sample Survey conducted in 1987-88 the figure of child labour has been estimated to be 17.02 million. The data as per 1991 census has not yet been released.

It is estimated that 20 lakh children are engaged in hazardous occupations in the country. Estimates of state-wise population of children working in hazardous occupations and their population by age not maintained.

(c) The Technical Advisory Committee periodically reviews the occupations and processes, to prohibit employment of children in hazardous occupations under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The State Government have also been empowered to declare any occupation as "Hazardous processes" or "dangerous operations" under the Factories Act, 1948 for prohibition of the employment of children.

Difficulties in Exporting Foodgrains by FCI

2084. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has been able to secure adequate number of weagons from railways to facilitate wheat exports so far in 1995-96;

(b) if so, what other infrastructural bottelnecks Food Corporation of India is facing in exporting foodgrains; and

(c) details of difficulties in exporting foodgrains by F.C.I.?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Government of India, Ministry of Food has permitted Food Corporation of India to export/sell for the purpose of export 2.5 million tonnes of wheat during 1995-96. The demand received from private buyers is under process and consequently so far no wheat has been sold for export purposes in open sale.

(b) Since June 95 to November 95 demand for loading 554 rakes on account of dedicated movement of rice were placed against which 494 rakes were loaded and 60 rakes are due for loading. The availability of rakes for movement of foodgrains, overall, is less then the requirements. Some of the other bottlenecks are delay in lifting of foodgrains by exporters and clearance of wagons which results in congestion at ports.

(c) As no direct export of foodgrains has been undertaken by the Food Corporation of India during 1995-96. There is no question of difficulties experienced by it.